## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03350 270936Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 STR-07 STRE-00 OIC-02

-----088118 270939Z/23

P R 270850Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 783
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, ASEAN, SN

SUBJECT: TRADE AND THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL

**REF: SINGAPORE 3322** 

1. TRADE DEPT DEP DIR LEONG CHEE WHYE CALLED TO SAY GOS WILL NOT BE SENDING ADDITIONAL DELEGATES FOR MTN DISCUSSIONS (HE AGAIN ATTRIBUTED PROBLEM TO NEED FOR CABINET APPROVAL), BUT WILL SEND "GENERAL BRIEF" ON MTN ALONG WITH GOS DELEGATION. ASKED WHO ON DELEGATION WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MTN MATTERS, LEONG SAID MFA ECONOMIC DIVISION OFFICER. THIS WOULD BE CHEW TAI SOO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DIVISION.

2. LEONG SAID SUBJECT OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS WAS DISCUSSED AT PREPARATORY MEETING, BUT WAS NOT SURE WHETHER OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS PLAN TO SEND MTN NEGOTIATORS.

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3. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT GOS DELEGATION WILL BE ABLE TO CONDUCT BRASS TACKS NEGOTIATIONS ON US-GOS BILATERAL OFFERS AND REQUESTS. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, CHEW HAD NOT BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN MTN NEGOTIATIONS (THIS HAS BEEN TRADE DEPARTMENT PRESERVE), AND SENIOR ECONOMIC DELEGATE, SENIOR

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE GOH CHOK TONG, IS
UNLIKELY TO HAVE DETAILED GRASP OF SUBJECT.
INGRAHAM

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NNN

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TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, SN, ASEAN, MTN, (LEONG CHEE WHYE)

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